



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Howard Denis

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2005

Contact: Ken Hartman 240-777-7965

Statement by Councilmember Howard A. Denis, Regarding Today's Motion to Delay Montrose Parkway

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**

My motion to delay the Montrose Parkway West by one year is necessary to prevent more traffic congestion. It is vital that Montrose West (the Parkway) be synchronized with Montrose East (the heart of which is the tunnel under Rockville Pike). My motion brings the projects closer together in time. The State must then do its part, as I urge them to do by accelerating Montrose East.

My motion not only provides \$5.4 million in tax relief, it could save money by postponing construction until prices are lower, as they are expected to be next fiscal year.

I feel very strongly that the Montrose Parkway should and will be built. But without a serious commitment from the State to build the Montrose Parkway/Rockville Pike grade-separated interchange, the full benefit of Montrose Parkway West simply will not be realized.

Anyone who travels on Rockville Pike knows the intersection with Montrose/Randolph is a headache – even outside of rush hour. Traveling through this intersection from the east or west is even more daunting.

Building Montrose Parkway West without it being synchronized with the interchange is like building a tunnel halfway. Not synchronizing these projects will make traffic worse on Rockville Pike. This is why the Council identified a grade-separated interchange as our top State road priority. But instead of accelerating this project, the State scheduled it for completion in 2012.

As with forward-funding school projects, proceeding with Montrose Parkway West at this time is unwise and will leave the County holding the bag -- meaning more, not less, traffic aggravation for commuters.

#